

REMARKS

Claims 56, 58-62, 64-68 and 70-72 are pending in the application.

Claims 56, 58, 60-62, 64, 66-68, 70 and 72 stand rejected.

Claims 59, 65 and 71 stand objected to.

Claims 56, 61-62, 67-68 and 72 have been amended.

Claims 58-59, 64-65 and 70-71 have been cancelled.

Allowable Subject Matter

Claims 59, 65 and 71 stand objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants wish to express their appreciation for the indicated allowability of claims 59, 65 and 71. In response, Applicants have amended independent claims 56, 62 and 68 to include the limitations of the objected-to claims, as well as those of corresponding intervening claims. Applicants therefore respectfully submit that amended independent claims 59, 65 and 71, as well as all claims depending thereon, are in condition for allowance.

Rejection of Claims under 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 56, 58-62, 64-68, 70-72 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Thrysoe, U.S. Patent No. 6,574,238 ("Thrysoe"), in view of Upp, et al., U.S. Patent No. 4,967,405 ("Upp").

As an initial matter, Applicants respectfully submit that this rejection is now moot as to claims 58-59, 64-65 and 70-71, as these claims have been cancelled.

While not conceding that the cited references qualify as prior art, but instead to expedite prosecution, Applicants have chosen to respectfully traverse the rejection in light of the amendments made to independent claims 56, 62 and 68. Applicants have amended independent claims 56, 62 and 68 to include the limitations of allowable claims, and so believe this rejection to be overcome thereby. Applicants reserve the right, for example, in a continuing application, to establish that the cited references, or other references cited now or hereafter, do not qualify as prior art as to an invention embodiment previously, currently, or subsequently claimed.

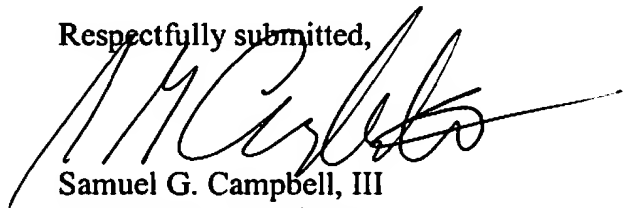
Applicants, having amended independent claims 56, 62 and 68 to include the limitations of certain of the objected to claims, as well as those of corresponding intervening claims, therefore respectfully submit that this rejection is overcome thereby, and that claims 56, 62 and 68 are in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

In view of the amendments and remarks set forth herein, the application is believed to be in condition for allowance and a notice to that effect is solicited. Nonetheless, should any issues remain that might be subject to resolution through a telephonic interview, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512-439-5084.

If any extensions of time under 37 C.F.R. § 1.136(a) are required in order for this submission to be considered timely, Applicant hereby petitions for such extensions. Applicant also hereby authorizes that any fees due for such extensions or any other fee associated with this submission, as specified in 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 or § 1.17, be charged to deposit account 502306.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'SG Campbell', with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

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